



**TESTIMONY OF
ROBERT MACCA
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
LABOR COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **opposes** HB- 6187, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees.

In these difficult economic times, HB-6187 sends the wrong message to Connecticut employers. With the unemployment rate at 7%, Connecticut needs to take steps to foster the growth of small businesses, not hamstringing them with costly mandates.

CT-PHCC does not believe that one-size-fits-all policies work. For companies and industries that use seasonal or part-time workers, mandatory paid time off policies are unworkable and will weaken their productivity and operations. Furthermore, companies need the flexibility to design wage and benefit packages that meet the needs of their specific company and industry.

When companies are faced with inflexible government mandates, many companies may simply decide to stay small rather than expand and add jobs to the economy. And that does not benefit anyone, the employer, employees or the economy of the state of Connecticut.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to **reject** HB-6187.

Thank you for allowing me to comment today.

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.